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Sent: 1/30/2015 2:50:17 AM
To: R10-ORA [R10-ORA@epa.gov]
CC: Pavy, Jonathan [Pavy.Jonathan@epa.gov]; Manaloor, Valsala [Manaloor.Valsala@epa.gov]; Eaton, Thomas [Eaton.Thomas@epa.gov]; Soderlund, Dianne [Soderlund.Dianne@epa.gov]; Barber, Anthony [Barber.Anthony@epa.gov]; Opalski, Dan [Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]; Anderson-Carnahan, Linda [Anderson-Carnahan.Linda@epa.gov]; Murchie, Peter [Murchie.Peter@epa.gov]; Philip, Jeff [Philip.Jeff@epa.gov]; Reichgott, Christine [Reichgott.Christine@epa.gov]; Szerlog, Michael [Szerlog.Michael@epa.gov]; Thomas, Sally [Thomas.Sally@epa.gov]
Subject: ETPA Hot Topics

For the week of February 2, 2015

Office Director, Deputy Director and ET Admin. Availability

- David will be in the office all week.
- Linda will be in the office all week.
- Jonathan Pavy will be in the office Wednesday through Friday.
- Valsala Manaloor will be in the office all week (except Wednesday afternoon).

Hot Topics

Super Bowl: On February 1, the Seattle Seahawks defeated the New England Patriots 26-18 in Glendale, Arizona. Richard Sherman intercepted a Tom Brady pass on the Seattle 5-yard line with 30 seconds remaining in the game to secure the victory. The win marks Seattle's second Super Bowl victory in as many seasons. (You heard it here first). Contact: D. Allnutt (3-2581).

Juneau Access Improvement Project: On January 29, ETPA submitted a 3(a) letter to the Army Corps, Alaska District, concluding that the Juneau Access Improvement Project may result in substantial and unacceptable impacts to aquatic resources of national importance as defined in paragraph IV(3)(a) of the August 11, 1992 memorandum of agreement between EPA and the Corps (Section 404(q) MOA). EPA maintains that the direct and cumulative effects of the project may substantially and unacceptably impact Berners Bay and the Lynn Canal watershed, aquatic resources of national importance. EPA believes that there are less environmentally damaging and practicable alternatives in light of the overall project purpose. By evoking 404(q), EPA will have 25 calendar days to review any additional information provided by the applicant or the Corps that would address our concerns. Contact: Becky Fauver (3-1353).

Placer Mining General Permit: EPA will submit comments to the Corps on Friday, January 30. The Corps, Alaska District had granted an extension to the 30-day comment period for the public notice for the statewide CWA § 404 general permit for mechanical placer mining in order for EPA perform a thorough review of the public notice, and to develop meaningful and substantive comments. Both the BLM and USFWS had submitted letters requesting an additional 15 days for review. Dennis was briefed on the RGP on Tuesday, January 27. Contacts: Gayle Martin (1- 5097) and Matt LaCroix (1-1480).

The Donlin Gold Project EIS: The EIS development process is moving forward as scheduled. The EPA and cooperating agencies provided comments to the Corps of Engineers, the lead federal agency, on the preliminary draft Chapter 3 (Environmental Consequences) in early December. Nearly 2,000 comments were submitted. The Corps' contractor will be completing analysis of missing elements, addressing agency comments, strengthening the use of summary tools, improving consistency across resource sections, making adjustments to their analytic methods, reorganizing the spill risk analysis, and including a new chapter on mitigation. In addition, the EPA is reviewing and providing comments on the Donlin Gold Project wetland functional assessment report. The Preliminary Draft EIS is scheduled to be released for

cooperating agency review and comment on March 4 for a 30-day comment period. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in mid-July 2015. Contact: Mark Jen 1-3411.

The Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) Supplemental EIS: On January 16, EPA and cooperating agencies provided comments to the Corps on the preliminary draft Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need) and Chapter 2 (Alternatives). We recommended that the ASAP SEIS include the significant new changes to the proposed project that was not evaluated in the 2012 Final EIS. In particular, the proposed construction and transportation of the gas conditioning facility modules on the North Slope would require barge sealift, winter dredging of a navigational channel and turning basin, modifications to West Dock/Dock head 3. Alternatives to these proposed new activities should be identified in Chapter 2, and evaluated in the SEIS. We recommended an alternative route variation that avoids and minimizes direct impacts to the Minto Flats Wetlands. In addition, the EPA expressed concerns with a project modification to bury the first seven miles of the pipeline in the sensitive Arctic Coastal Plain on the North Slope. The 2012 FEIS evaluated an aboveground pipeline route supported on VSMs, which represents a less environmentally damaging alternative to the buried pipeline. A meeting has been scheduled for February 3 to discuss our comments and the proposed winter dredging and disposal options with the Corps and the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation. Contact: Mark Jen 1-3411.

Rep. Kilmer Meeting Request: Washington Congressman Derek Kilmer has requested a call with Dennis to discuss Olympic Peninsula constituents' concerns about proposed Navy projects involving electronic warfare training, F18 Growlers and sonobuoys. Region 10 has had a limited NEPA review role in projects involving electronic warfare training and sonobuoys in Puget Sound and is currently participating in the NEPA review of Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island that has elicited complaints related to noise impacts. Contact: Cindy Schuster (3-1815)



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